

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1 ~~1. A method for programming an operator system interface with a~~
2 ~~simulator, said method comprising the steps of:~~
3 ~~providing definitional tables for an operator system interface,~~
4 ~~wherein said tables define specific governing attributes of said operator~~
5 ~~system interface;~~
6 ~~generating a simulated operator system interface simulator program,~~
7 ~~wherein when the simulator program is run on a computing device, it~~
8 ~~displays a representation of the operator system interface defined by the~~
9 ~~definitional tables input in the providing step, and allows a user to select~~
10 ~~components of the interface, using a pointing device, in order to view~~
11 ~~information about the selected component on a display device or to effect a~~
12 ~~change in keysets or menus.~~

1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating
2 tables to be used in a software requirements specification.

1 3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 generating operational operator system interface definitional tables
3 using the simulated operator system interface definitional tables; and
4 developing an operational operator system interface from the
5 generated operational operator system interface definitional tables.

1 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the providing step further
2 comprises the step of extracting the definitional tables from an existing
3 operational operator system interface.

1 5. A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
2 ~~modifying the simulated operator system interface; and~~
3 ~~generating updated operational operator system interface~~
4 ~~definitional tables.~~

1 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the steps of generating a
2 simulated operator system interface simulator program, modifying the
3 simulated operator system interface and generating updated operational
4 operator system interface definitional tables are repeated a desired number
5 of times.

1 7. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of updating
2 an operational operator system interface using the updated operational
3 operator system interface definitional tables generated in the generating
4 step.

1 8. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of running
2 the simulator program on a personal computer (PC).

1 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the simulator program is used to
2 train operators in a control and display system defined by the operator
3 system interface.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the simulator program is used
2 to demonstrate functionality of a control and display system defined by the
3 operator system interface.